Women in Alberta

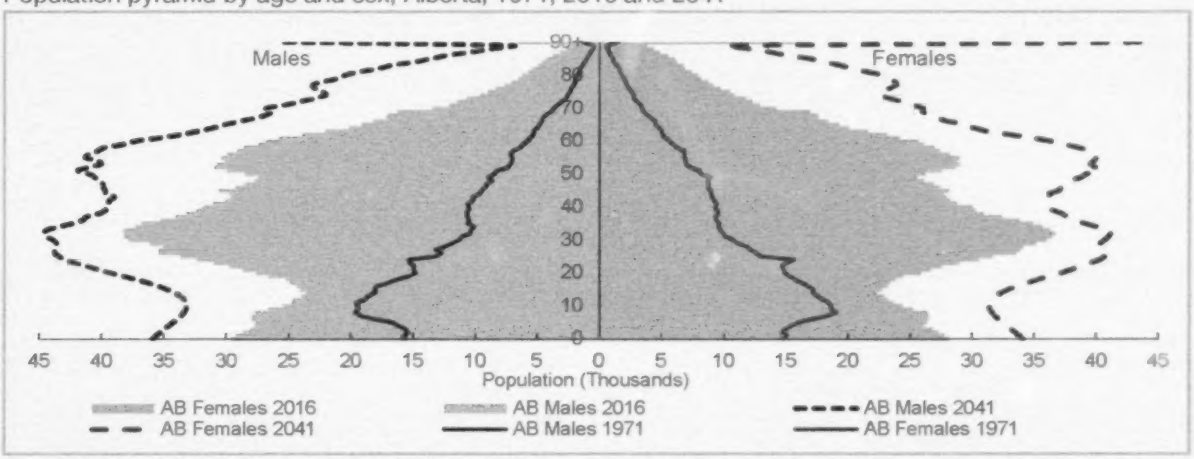
Population

How many females live in Alberta?

- Alberta is home to almost 2.1 million women and girls (49.3% of Alberta's population and 11.5% of Canada's total female population). Between 1971 and 2016, the annual rate of growth of the female population in Alberta (2.1%) has mirrored that of males.
- In 1971, there were about 816,000 females and 850,000 males; Alberta TBF's medium scenario projects that by 2041 about 2.97 million females and 3.05 million males will live in the province.
- According to the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS), there were 112,400 females (6.3%) who reported an Aboriginal identity in Alberta.
- In 2011, 15.6% of the female Aboriginal Identity population in Canada resided in Alberta.
- Most women and girls in Alberta who reported an Aboriginal Identity were First Nations, followed by Métis (53.6% and 43.2%, respectively).
- Alberta is home to 330,945 female immigrants or 9.3% of the national total. In the 2011 NHS, 51.4% of Alberta's immigrants were female. The five most common countries of origin among immigrant females were the Philippines (40,305), India (29,425), the United Kingdom (29,260), China (26,420) and the United States (17,265).
- About one-fifth of people living in Alberta reported being a visible minority in the 2011 NHS, slightly higher than the 2006 Census. The most common visible minority identities for women and girls in the province were South Asian (22.9%), Chinese (20.8%) and Filipino (17.8%).

Chart 1: Alberta's aging population

Population pyramid by age and sex, Alberta, 1971, 2016 and 2041



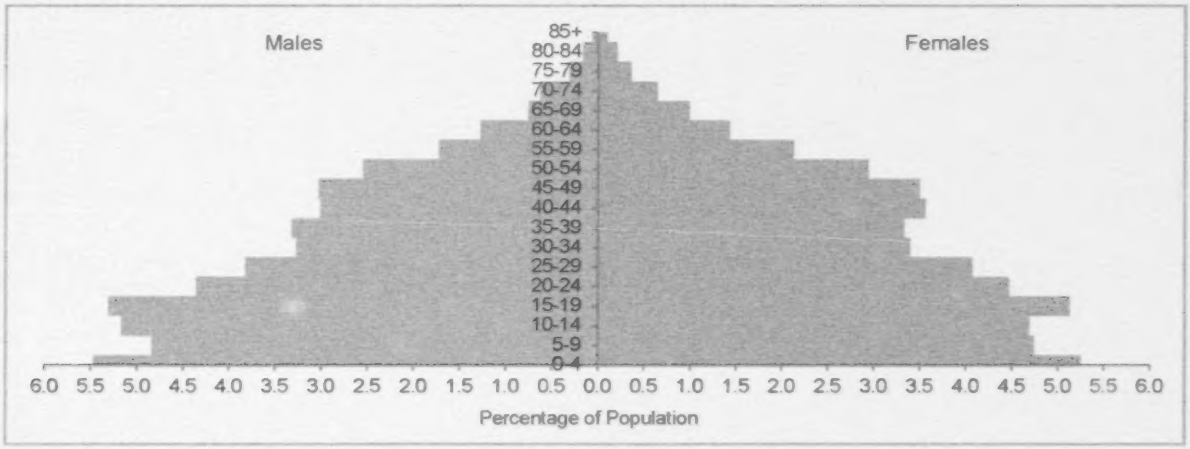
Sources: Statistics Canada (1971, 2016), TBF (2041)

Note: Adjusted for net census undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves. Preliminary estimates.

Age structure

- Alberta has the youngest population of all the provinces. In 2016, the median age of females in Alberta was 36.7 years, whereas for males it was 36.0. Nationally, the median age of females and males was 41.5 and 39.7, respectively.
- Despite having the youngest population, Alberta's population is still aging, as the 2016 median ages for both women and men have increased steadily from the median ages in 1971 (24.8 years and 25.0 years, respectively).
- The median age of the female Aboriginal population in Alberta (26.4 years) is lower than the median age for all females in Alberta, but above that of the male Aboriginal population (24.2 years).

Chart 2: Aboriginal females in Alberta are older than males
Aboriginal Identity population in private households by age group, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey
Note: Not adjusted for incompletely enumerated Indian reserves.

The female proportion of Alberta's population

- Alberta has the highest male-to-female ratio (also called the sex ratio) of all the provinces, with 103 males per 100 females. By comparison, the national sex ratio is 98 males per 100 females.
- The largest difference in the sex ratio between Alberta and Canada occurs between the ages of 40 and 49 years. At these ages, Alberta's sex ratio is 107 males per 100 females, while Canada's ratio is balanced at 100.
- For the age ranges of 0 to 19 years and over 70 years, Alberta has about the same proportions of male and female residents, mirroring the overall Canadian population.
- In both Alberta and Canada, the 90 and over age group has the most unbalanced sex ratio at 41 males per 100 females. In other words, there are almost 2.5 times as many women as men in this age group, largely due to the mortality differences between males and females. On average, females in Alberta had a life expectancy of about 83.4 years in 2016, compared with 78.9 years for males.

Table 1: Alberta has fewer females than males but this varies by age
Sex ratio of population by 5 year age group, 2016

Age Group	Canada	Alberta
0-4	1.05	1.05
5-9	1.05	1.05
10-14	1.05	1.05
15-19	1.06	1.06
20-24	1.05	1.07
25-29	1.01	1.04
30-34	0.99	1.05
35-39	0.99	1.06
40-44	1.00	1.07
45-49	1.00	1.07
50-54	1.01	1.07
55-59	0.99	1.06
60-64	0.98	1.04
65-69	0.95	0.98
70-74	0.91	0.93
75-79	0.84	0.84
80-84	0.76	0.77
85-89	0.62	0.66
90+	0.41	0.41
Total Population	0.98	1.03

Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division
Note: Adjusted for net census undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves. Preliminary estimates.

Regional differences

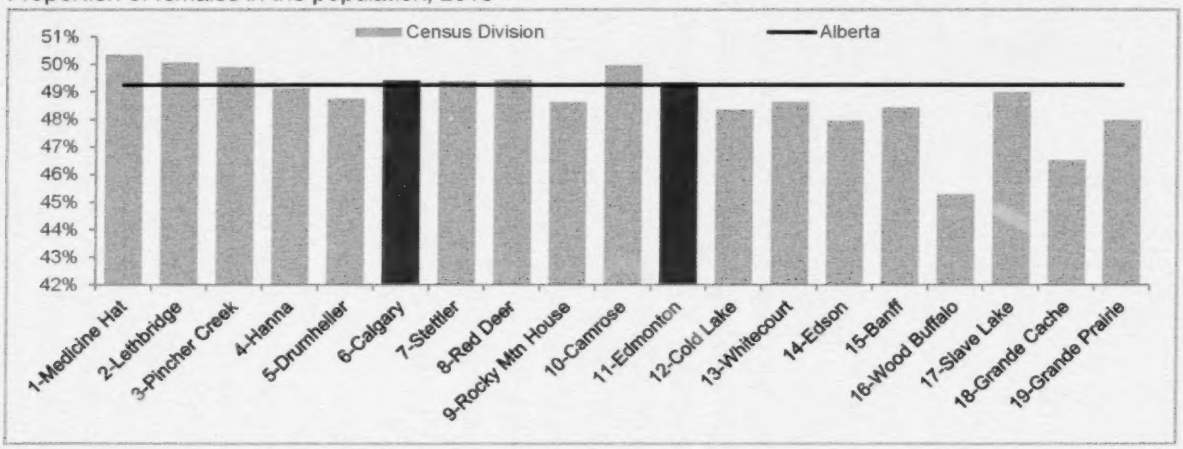
- Most females live in the urban areas of the province: in 2016, 34.7% of females (over 726,000) lived in the census metropolitan area (CMA) of Calgary, while 32.8% (over 687,000) lived in the CMA of Edmonton.
- Of those who reported an Aboriginal identity in the 2011 NHS, 28.3% lived in the CMA of Edmonton (31,830), while 15.1% lived in Calgary (17,015).
- In the CMA of Calgary, there were 160,455 female immigrants, constituting 48.5% of Alberta's total female immigrants. Edmonton was home to 120,395 female immigrants (36.4%).
- Census Division (CD) 1 (Medicine Hat) had the highest proportion of women among the province CDs at 50.4%. This is followed by CD 2 (Lethbridge) and CD 10 (Camrose) at 50.1% and 50.0% respectively. All other CDs had more males than females in 2016.
- CD 16 (Wood Buffalo) had the lowest proportion of females in the province, at 45.3%, compared with the Alberta average of 49.3%. CD 18 (Grande Cache) also had one of the lowest shares (46.5%).
- In absolute numbers, the Edmonton-Calgary Corridor had the highest numbers of females, while CD 4 (Hanna) had the lowest (1,592,854 and 4,816, respectively).
- CD 17 (Slave Lake) had the youngest median age in the province at 29.2 years. This Census Division also has the highest proportion of girls aged 0 to 14 years (28.3%).
- CD 3 (Pincher Creek) had the highest share of women aged 65 years and older (20.1%). However, CD 4 (Hanna) had the highest median age at 42.3 years.
- CD 16 (Wood Buffalo) and CD 15 (Banff) had the highest distributions of working aged-women (15-64 years) in the province (74.5% and 73.2% respectively). These regions are well above the provincial average of 68.6%.

Culture and religion

- According to the 2011 NHS, most females and males in Alberta spoke only English at home (88.3% and 88.6%, respectively). Punjabi was the most commonly spoken non-official language for females and males (9.9% and 10.3%, respectively).
- More females (1,266,495 or 71.4%) than males (1,175,350 or 65.5%) in Alberta reported having a religious affiliation in the 2011 NHS.

Chart 3: Proportion of females varied across Alberta; highest in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge

Proportion of females in the population, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division
Note: Adjusted for net census undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves. Preliminary estimates.

Table 2: Female population by broad age group and median age

Alberta and Census Divisions, 2016

Census Division and Major City	Total Female Population	0 to 14	15 to 64	65 and over	Median Age
		Distribution (percentage)			
1-Medicine Hat	42,842	17.9%	64.6%	17.5%	39.9
2-Lethbridge	87,900	19.9%	64.9%	15.2%	35.7
3-Pincher Creek	20,166	20.3%	59.6%	20.1%	41.1
4-Hanna	4,816	19.9%	60.8%	19.4%	42.3
5-Drumheller	27,914	19.5%	63.7%	16.8%	39.9
6-Calgary	778,942	17.7%	70.2%	12.1%	36.9
7-Stettler	20,281	18.6%	64.1%	17.3%	40.8
8-Red Deer	107,105	19.2%	67.5%	13.3%	36.6
9-Rocky Mtn House	10,806	20.3%	63.7%	16.0%	39.1
10-Camrose	49,554	19.1%	63.0%	17.9%	39.9
11-Edmonton	706,807	17.4%	69.2%	13.4%	36.6
12-Cold Lake	35,378	23.0%	65.1%	11.9%	34.1
13-Whitecourt	33,862	18.7%	64.1%	17.2%	42.2
14-Edson	14,321	18.5%	68.1%	13.4%	38.6
15-Banff	19,582	14.0%	73.2%	12.8%	37.1
16-Wood Buffalo	34,676	22.4%	74.5%	3.1%	31.7
17-Slave Lake	32,235	28.3%	62.6%	9.2%	29.2
18-Grande Cache	7,110	22.7%	66.3%	11.0%	35.8
19-Grande Prairie	60,562	21.7%	68.3%	10.0%	33.6
Alberta	**2,094,859**	**18.3%**	**68.6%**	13.1%	**36.7**

Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division